

Wednesday 16th December 2020

Dear HJS families,

A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND GOODBYE !



What a joy it is to have been part of such an amazing school and supportive community. I can't quite believe that at the end of this week I will have been a HJS staff member for over 9 years and what a journey it has been!

Some parents might be aware that I was born in Hampton and at one point lived in Percy Road. The first time I looked around, for the position of Assistant Headteacher, was therefore a rather surreal experience but one that felt right. The staff were so welcoming, the children were so eager to learn and the building was just a wonderful learning environment. I knew from that first visit that this was going to be a very happy place for me, and not only that, I knew I could help the team to make this a school that everyone was proud of

During my 9 years a lot has changed, not just in the school, but nationally and at HJS we have always ensured 'excellence' is at the forefront of any decision we have made. The drive for excellence and continual pursuit for improvement led to an OfSTED report in 2017 which we were delighted with. To gain an Outstanding judgement for both Leadership and Management and Personal Development, Behaviour and Welfare demonstrated the hard work and determination of all the staff, pupils and parents. This for me validated what I already knew- that Hampton Junior School was an exceptional school and that the families that attend are incredibly lucky.

One of my core beliefs has always been that 'people make an outstanding school, so you need to invest in those people'. I have had the privilege of working with some amazing members of staff, who go above and beyond to ensure your children receive the very best education. Not only this, but a lifelong love for learning. When HISN and HJS federated in 2013, this strengthened the learning journey for all families and I am so pleased to have helped build such a strong and successful partnership. None of this would have been possible without the clear vision and passion of Ms Lockey who is not only an outstanding leader but also a great friend.

Of course the children of HJS have always been the main reason for me wanting to stay so long. Obviously over the years there has been some 'challenges', but as I reflect on all those children that have passed through HJS, learning and laughter is what I remember most. 'Be the best you can be' is the school motto and one that the children at HJS demonstrated daily and for any adult working in education observing a child try their very best and achieve is the greatest memory of all.

I am going to miss Hampton Junior School so much but know that it has been left in very capable hands and look forward to hearing about how it continues to grow from strength to strength.

Finally, a massive thank you to all the parents in the HJS community. Thank you for trusting us to take care of your children and I hope that you are very proud of everything they have achieved – I know I am!

Jon James

